

# Marion County Election Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 28, 2010 10 a.m.

City-County Building, Rm. 260

Board Members Present: Chairman Mark Sullivan; Vice Chairman Patrick Dietrick; Secretary Elizabeth "Beth" White; Laurel S. Judkins, Director of Elections

Others Present: Angie Nussmeyer, Patrick Becker, Will French, Myla Eldridge, Michael Weiseman, Jenny Troutman, Andy Mallon, April Schultheis, Terry Burns, Cindy Mowery, Ray Scheele, Brian Cooper, Rosie Stockdale, Kip Tew, Donnie Morgan, Jacqueline Policastro, Kevin Hankins, Zach Adamson, Dave Franklin, Cassandra Duvall, Adam Kirsch, Charlene King, Robin Shackleford, Mike Rodman, Melanie Chastain, Scott Hohl, Jim Shella, Ben Kunkler, Annette Johnson, Tina Simpson.

- I. **Call to Order:** Chairman Sullivan called the meeting to order.
- II. **Ratification of Meeting Minutes:** Vice Chairman Dietrick requested that Ms. Judkins clarify the Town of Homecroft Resignation Filing from the last meetings minutes. Ms. Judkins stated there was a clerical error in handling the Town of Homecroft Resignation filing. Vice Chairman Dietrick motioned to ratify the minutes. Madame Clerk seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
- III. **Campaign Finance – Waiver/Reduction Requests:** Ms. Judkins stated that open candidate committees and PACs need to file their campaign finance reports prior to the Primary Election. Vice Chairman Dietrick motioned to waive the fines of the candidates / committees listed below. Madame Clerk seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
  - **Phillip Gammon:** Mr. Gammon filed late with the EB and the EB assessed a \$550 fine. Gammon stated in a letter he was ill at the time and requested a waiver of his fine.
  - **Robin Shackleford:** Ms. Shackleford filed with the State Election Division before the deadline but filed late with the EB. She requested a waiver of her fine \$1000 fine.
  - **William Schroeder:** Mr. Schroeder filed late and requested a waiver of his \$200 fine.
  - **Warren Township GOP Club:** The Club filed late with the EB and the EB assessed a \$200 fine. The Warren TWP GOP club requested a waiver of their fine.
- IV. **Ratification of Contract – Bowen Center:** Ms. Judkins stated the Election Board received an additional \$25,000 grant from the State Election Division who administers the Help America Vote Act on behalf of the Federal Government. The Election Board proposes to partner with the Bowen Center at Ball State University. The purpose of this grant is to help increase voter accessibility to voters with disabilities. The grant will also serve to increase poll worker participation among those who are disabled. The Election Board will work with Greg Fehribach as program coordinator for the Bowen Center. The term of the



contract starts immediately upon approval and lasts till December 15, 2010. Ms. Judkins stated that this grant will go towards updating Braille and voting equipment for voters with disabilities. Madame Clerk motioned to approve the contract. Vice Chairman Dietrick seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

**V. Early Voting Initiative:** Ms. Judkins presented the Early Voting Initiative PowerPoint presentation. (See Attachment)

- **Questions after presentation:**

1. Vice Chairman Dietrick asked if there is a written procedure manual in place for early voting. Ms. Judkins responded that there are written procedures for training absentee board members and staff. Ms. Judkins added the Election Board is in the process of putting together a more comprehensive packet of information on this topic. Andy Mallon stated in 2008, as Director of Elections, he put together a memo of procedures of early voting. This memo was presented and approved by the Election Board. Jenny Troutman, Program Coordinator, added the Election Board used written instructions on implementing absentee votes that was done by previous Program Coordinator, Dan Fair.
2. Vice Chairman Dietrick asked if there is there a contact person to resolve issues that might occur at a satellite location. Ms. Troutman stated “yes” and noted that she was on call 24 – 7 during satellite voting in the 2008 General Election. Ms. Troutman mentioned that Andy Mallon and Assistant Coordinator, Morgan Decker were also reachable by phone.
3. Vice Chairman Dietrick asked if there are differences between vote centers and satellite voting. Ms. Judkins clarified that satellite voting is used exclusively for early voting. Vote centers are places where any voter in that county can vote at a designated voting place on Election Day. Counsel Scott Chinn advised that only 3 counties in Indiana have been allowed by state law to implement vote centers.
4. Vice Chairman Dietrick asked about costs pertaining to running satellite voting sites. Ms. Judkins stated in 2008, it cost \$105,000 to run satellite voting. She stated that this number was high because of the historic turnout of the 2008 General Election. In the 2009 Special Election, it cost \$48,100. Ms. Judkins stated in the satellite voting presentation that it would cost \$35,000 to run one satellite site in the upcoming 2010 General Election.
5. Vice Chairman Dietrick asked about the process of transporting absentee ballots from the Election Board office to the precinct voting sites on Election Day. The satellite voting presentation established that the absentee ballots are first sorted by precinct. They are stored in a secured vault. Routes are designated to transport the absentee ballots on Election Day. On Election Day,



the ballots are transported by bi-partisan commissioner teams in taxi-cabs to the voting precinct sites.

6. Vice Chairman Dietrick asked if there were issues or problems in transporting absentee ballots to the voting sites throughout the county. Ms. Judkins stated every effort is made to deliver the ballots before the close of polls. In 2008, the large volume of ballots prevented the Election Board from delivering every ballot before 6 p.m. but that all the legally countable absentee ballots were ultimately counted and included in the certified election results. Chairman Sullivan and Andy Mallon added that historically, there are always absentee ballots that don't make it to their precinct on Election Day. However, since Clerk White took office, the Election Board has unanimously agreed to seek a court order to count all legally countable absentee ballots that, by no fault of the voter, did not make it to their home precinct on Election Day. Judges have repeatedly granted this court order in and the affected absentee ballots are counted after Election Day and included in the certified election results.

**VI. Adjournment:** Chairman Sullivan adjourned the meeting

**Signed: 8/17/2010**

---

Chairman, Mark K. Sullivan

---

Vice Chairman, Patrick Dietrick

---

Secretary, Elizabeth L. White